

SUGGESTED BECKHAM QUESTIONS

MEMO TO: C. J. DELSA

RE: Possible questions for T. E. BECKHAM

I

Where and when did he meet CRISMAN? Who introduced them? Give the names of all persons in whose company he has ever seen CRISMAN. After meeting CRISMAN, in what places, when and under what circumstances did he subsequently encounter CRISMAN? (Itemize and give full details). If travel was involved, what were the arrangements and who made them?

Did CRISMAN ever use a credit card in his presence? (What kind? For example, did CRISMAN possess an Air Travel Card? Other credit cards? Does he recall the user's name in the left hand corner?) Has he ever been to hotels, restaurants, or stores with CRISMAN? Where and when? Did CRISMAN seem known at any of these places? Did CRISMAN, to his knowledge, ever use any other names?

How did CRISMAN usually dress when he saw him? What was his customary mode of travel between cities? How did he customarily move about within a city? (Taxi-cabs? Car? If car, who was the owner - or the alleged owner?) What was CRISMAN's evident economic level of living? (Food, lodging, kind of wrist watch, et cetera) What did CRISMAN give as his source of income? (BECKHAM, as a minister for a non-existent church, would have to have known that this parallel role of CRISMAN'S would produce no income).

II.

Did BECKHAM ever see CRISMAN in the presence of GUY BANISTER or CLAY SHAW? (Much less likely, but possible: DAVID FERRIE? KERRY THORNLEY? LAYTON MERTENS? LAVERNE "LARRY" CRAFARD? LEE OSWALD? CUBANS? REV. RAYMOND BROSHEARS? BOB LAVENDER? WILLIAM DALZELL? BRUCE RAY CARLIN? GEORGE de MOHRENSHILDT?) Where and when? Under what circumstances? Who introduced who to whom? Who appeared to be the dominant (in the sense of inference of command) personality? Did BECKHAM ever meet or see any of these persons separately? Was anyone else present on any such occasion? (Repeat same questions with regard to unknown personalities encountered with CRISMAN. Their detailed descriptions). In any and all such instances, what were the subjects of conversation?

What were CRISMAN's stated - or demonstrated - sexual preferences? Any indications of homosexuality (as in the cases of FERRIE or SHAW)? Any indications of sadism (as in the case of SHAW)? Did BECKHAM ever have any sexual relations with CRISMAN? With SHAW? With FERRIE? With any others whose names have been mentioned above? With anyone apparently connected with CRISMAN?

What contacts did you have with CRISMAN in New Orleans in 1962 or 1963? Under what circumstances? Were you given any assignments or duties as a result? Did you receive any payments as a result? From whom? Did you have occasion to ~~use~~<sup>see</sup> CRISMAN outside of New Orleans at any time in 1963? Where? Under what circumstances? Receive any assignments or duties to perform? (Follow up with relevant questions depending upon his answers).

Did you ever leave New Orleans in 1963? (Example: Mandeville in January, 1963). Describe the places and the dates. For what purpose did you leave on each occasion? How did you travel? Where did you stay? What did you do? Who made the arrangements for you?

In connection with any of the other names previously mentioned, did you ever receive any assignments or things to do from them? Any subsequent remuneration? From whom?

### III.

What were your sources of income in 1963? For doing what? How often in 1962 or 1963 did you have occasion to visit the Newman Building (BANISTER'S place) at 531 Lafayette Street (or 544 Camp Street)? Did you receive job assignments in that connection? Any payments to you? By whom? Why? What other persons did you see at that location? How often? What activity were they engaged in? Who appeared to be in charge? (If BANISTER, who appeared to you to be in charge of BANISTER?) Have you ever had occasion to see any of these individuals outside of that building? Under what circumstances?

Did you have a mail box key to the Post Office Building across from BANISTER'S office? Why? Did any other persons, who hung around his office, have such keys? Why? Have you ever had occasion to go to the Mancuso Restaurant in that building? How frequently? With whom have you gone there? Who else did you ever have occasion to see there? How frequently?

What seemed to the GUY BANISTER's main activity? What appeared to you to be the source or sources of his income? What appeared to be the sources of income of other persons frequenting his office? Did they ever indicate the sources to you? Did any of them indicate who, other than BANISTER, they were working for? Did you ever have occasion to see any of these individuals receive money - or envelopes apparently containing money?

Did you ever have occasion to see men in green Army-type fatigues in that area? Americans or Cubans? Why did they seem to be coming there? Did anyone seem to be in charge of them? Do you know where their training camps were? Did you ever have occasion to visit any of them? (If so, with whom and under what circumstances?) Did anyone ever tell you what they were training for? Did anyone ever tell you who they were working for?

IV.

Have you ever been to CLAY SHAW's apartment (on Dauphine Street)? DAVID FERRIE's apartment (on Louisiana Avenue Parkway)? The International Trade Mart? Any of the residences of any persons previously mentioned? For what purpose?

Prior to November 22, 1963, did you hear the assassination discussed in any way? (By whom? Where? Give full details).

Did you have occasion to see FRED CRISMAN in November, 1963? Where and under what circumstances? Do you know what cities CRISMAN was in in November, 1963? Do you know whether CRISMAN was ever in Dallas, Texas? When? What for? Were you ever in Dallas, Texas? When? What for? Do you know any persons who were in Dallas in November, 1963? Did you ever hear the names of any persons who were in Dallas in November, 1963?

On November 22, 1963, do you know where GUY BANISTER was? (Note: apparently in New Orleans, but not at his office all day). Do you know who was with him? Do you know why he didn't come to the office that day? (Or did you later have occasion to hear where he was, what he did and with whom?) With regard to the individuals who hung around BANISTER'S office - or anyone whose name I have mentioned to you - do you know of any unusual

activity on their part that day? Did you hear of any unusual activity on their part?

Describe where you spent November 22, 1963, and describe - in detail - what you did all day? Did you have any occasion to go to a hotel or motel? (If so, for what purpose? Who else did you see there? What were they doing?)

V.

After November 22, 1963, when did you next see CRISMAN? Where? For what purpose? (Same question re BANISTER, SHAW, FERRIE - or any other persons with whom he acknowledged a relationship). Was the assassination discussed in any way? (If so, what was said - and by whom?)

Describe, in full detail, subsequent occasions in which you saw CRISMAN in 1963. In 1964. From 1964 to 1968.

Did you ever have occasion to visit CRISMAN in the State of Washington? When and for what purpose? How often? Who else was present? How long did you visit? Did you ever see him in Oregon? (same follow up questions) In Nebraska (same questions)? In any other States?

Have you ever been to CRISMAN's home? His ranch? (In either case, describe). Have you ever been to Tacoma or Olympia, Washington? (For what purpose, et cetera). Have you ever been to Carlton or Turner, Oregon? (Same follow up). In connection with CRISMAN, have you ever heard of a COLONEL WHITE (WILBERT)? What do you know about him?

Has CRISMAN ever discussed the assassination in your presence? Has he ever mentioned the name of LAVERNE "LARRY: CRAFARD to you?

#### VI.

When did you decide to move to Nebraska? Whose idea was it? Did you meet with - or talk to - CRISMAN before moving there? Who made the arrangements for you to go to Omaha? Who paid for your transportation there? When you went to Nebraska, what State had you been in before that? And what State before that?



What was the purpose in your going to Omaha and settling there? Were you given instructions and an assignment? Through whom did you meet your officer contact at Offutt Air Force Base there? What other contacts did you have at Offutt AFB? How frequently did you meet your officer contact? What was the usual purpose of your meeting? What did you usually talk about? What "business" were you supposedly engaged with him? Whose idea was it? How long did it last? Where was it located? Who was the landlord? What was the rent? Who paid it? Did the "business" show a profit?

Is it not a fact that your "church" and "business" actually were merely covers? What was your real function in Omaha? For whom were you working? (or: for whom did you think you were working?) What was the real source of your income? How were you paid? How frequently? Describe in full detail the nature of your relationship with any and all persons at Offutt Air Base. Was it a SAC base? (If affirmative, how did you know that?)

Going back to FRED CRISMAN, of Washington, you are aware - are you not - that he was not a real minister of a real church? What do you consider to have been the actual nature of his activity? His real job, his real function? What do you think was the real source of his income?

By the time you had spent several years in Omaha - and certainly by 1968 - you must have acquired your own ideas as to what CRISMAN's real activity was. What did you conclude that it was? Who did you believe him to be working for? Who did you consider to be his real boss? What did you think he was attempting to accomplish while using the cover of "minister"?

#### VII.

In 1968, when you were subpoenaed by District Attorney Garrison's Grand Jury in New Orleans, did you call CRISMAN? (If so, why? What did he tell you to do?) Why did you then leave Nebraska and go over into Iowa in an effort to avoid extradition to New Orleans?

When you arrived in New Orleans in 1968, as the result of your extradition to testify, you were driving a 1968 car. What was your financial condition then? Where was the money coming from? What had you been doing to earn it? Who paid for the car? During that time, while you were in New Orleans, you told a man by the name of DAVID LEWIS that you were working for the C.I.A. What did you mean by that?

After you testified before the New Orleans Grand Jury, did you contact anyone and discuss with them the questions asked and your answers? After that Grand Jury appearance, when did you next talk to CRISMAN? Why? About what? After that Grand Jury appearance, were you questioned about it by representatives of any federal agency? (What agency? What did they ask you?)

Prior to the assassination on November 22, 1963, were you questioned by any federal agency? (If so, what was the subject of this questioning?) After the assassination, were you questioned by any federal agency? (Same follow up).

VIII.

What contacts have you had with CRISMAN since 1968? By phone? (who phoned whom?) By mail? (same). By intermediary? (details). By visit (who visited whom? Place. Reason. Subject of discussion. Details?)

Have you received any assignments or things to do from him since then? (Or from anyone else?) Any remuneration? (How much?) How frequently? (What for?)

What was the first "church" for which you became a "minister"? (Whose idea? Who told you how to get your credentials? What was the reason?) What subsequent "churches" did you purport to become a "minister" or "bishop" for? (Same follow up questions). What "church" was FERRIE a "priest" for? What "church" did CRISMAN represent? What "church" does he represent now? What was their apparent reason for these phoney religious convictions?

Why is this non-existent "church" business so recurrent with you and persons with whom you have associated? Is it not a fact that the non-existent "church" and the title of "minister" or "bishop" serves as a cover for other activities? What activities were these? (With regard to you? With regard to others? Go into indicated follow-up questions).

Have you ever heard of the Church of the Abundant Life located in Oak Park (Dallas) in 1963? (Scene of Officers' Tippit's murder). Have you ever heard of the REVEREND O.B. GRAHAM of Dallas? Have you ever heard anyone discuss the use of an evangelical church building, in Dallas, in connection with the assassination? Are you aware of the use of any of these "odd churches" - existent or non-existent - used anywhere in connection with the assassination? Have you ever heard anyone discuss these "odd churches" with regard to the assassination? With regard to any clandestine or undercover activity? (If answer is affirmative, give names and full details)

Who introduced you to Sergio Arcacha? When and where did you meet him? Did you ever perform any assignments or duties or jobs for him? (When? Where? Under what circumstances?) Did you ever receive any payment for this? Have you ever seen or met Arcacha outside of New Orleans? Where? On what occasion?

Do you know when Arcacha moved from New Orleans? Do you know what city he moved to? (Houston). Do you know what city Arcacha was living in in November, 1963? (Dallas). Do you know whether or not CRISMAN knew ARCACHA? (In 1962 or 1963 ? Later?) Did ARCACHA know CRISMAN? (Same follow-up) Have you ever heard one mention the other? (Under what circumstances?) Do you know whether CRISMAN knew JACK RUBY? OFFICER TIPPIT? (If so, follow up for details).

Have you ever seen CRISMAN supply money to anyone? Under what circumstances? For what purpose? Did CRISMAN fly to New Orleans, to your knowledge, very often? (If yes, how often? Approximate number of times each year: 1962. 1963. 1964 through 1968. Since 1968).

Have you ever had CRISMAN'S home phone number? What city was it in? Why were you given it? How often have you used it? Do you know his present number? When did you last know his home phone number? Do you know whether or not ARCACHA knew CRISMAN'S home phone number? CLAY SHAW ? BANISTER? Have you ever heard that any of these men ever called CRISMAN long distance? Under what circumstances? Have you ever heard of anyone else calling CRISMAN long distance? Under what circumstances?

Did you ever have occasion to deliver money to or for CRISMAN? To or for ARCACHA? (Under what circumstances?) Did you ever have occasion to deliver money to or for anyone else? In any instance, how much was involved? Who assigned you to this task? Have you ever held any sums of money for any of the individuals I have names? For any Cuban organizations? For any organizations whatever? (When and under what circumstances?)

Since 1962, how often would you estimate you have made commercial airline flights? In 1962. 1963? From 1963 to 1968? Since 1968? What cities (and in what years) have you traveled to by air? Who paid the air fare? What was the purpose of each flight? (If his answer is affirmative but to the effect that there were too many flights to remember, shift to question concerning the amount and source of his income during those years. Develop any disproportionate ratio of air travel to yearly income).

Do you know whether or not CRISMAN is or was a pilot? Did he ever describe his military service to you? Has he ever indicated to you that - at any time since 1962 - he has been in government service? How did he indicate that? (Details).

How well would you say that CRISMAN and SHAW knew each other? When and where did you ever see them together? Under what (total) circumstances? Has either one ever mentioned the other to you? (Same <sup>CRISMAN</sup> questions re: GUY BANISTER. DAVID FERRIE. SERGIO ARCACHA. KERRY THORNLEY ).

(In the following question, the first and the fourth names are fictional to avoid Beckham memorizing the two interior names:) Have you ever heard CRISMAN mention any of the following names: William Walter Jordan? Charles B. Cabell (General)? George Lyman Paine (father of Michael Payne)? Harold M. Jackson? Have you ever seen any of these men? Have you ever heard anyone else mention them?

Regardless of Beckham's early answer re whether he had known KERRY THORNLEY, show him a variety of THORNLEY photographs and ask him whether he has ever seen him. Recall when and where. (Press for details as to where and when seen).



Repeat this photograph exhibition with regard to FRED  
CRISMAN, DAVID FERRIE and CLAY SHAW. (Press for details as to  
where and when seen).

(If subject answers all of the above questions, it should  
open up additional avenues for questioning. But this list should  
serve for openers).

*J.S.*

Copies:

Clif Fenton  
Jon Blackmer  
Gaeton Fonzi